

## Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

EB-07 COME-00 /067 W

----- 056096

R 171342Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5191

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 2593

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EC

SUBJ: ECUADOREAN REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY MESSAGE

REF: A. STATE 86289; B. QUITO 2495

1. SUMMARY: THE ECUADOREAN PRESS USED STRAIGHT DISPATCHES FROM WASHINGTON IN REPORTING PRESIDENT FORD'S FOREIGN POLICY MESSAGE TO CONGRESS. THERE HAS ONLY BEEN ONE SIGNIFICANT EDITORIAL, AND IT WAS ORIENTED TOWARD THOSE PORTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS WHICH CONCERNED ECUADOR (REMOVING THE OPEC-CONNECTED TRADE RESTRICTIONS), REPORTED REF B. THERE HAS BEEN NO EDITORIAL COMMENTARY ON EVENTS IN INDOCHINA, AND WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE A SERIOUS ADVERSE ECUADOREAN REACTION TO THEM, OR THAT THEY WILL HAVE A DELETERIOUS EFFECT ON OUR OVERALL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GOE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT ON PRESIDENT FORD'S FOREIGN POLICY MESSAGE TO CONGRESS WAS CONTAINED IN EL COMERCIO OF APRIL 12TH. IT WAS DIRECTED MAINLY AT THE PORTION OF PRESIDENT FORD'S SPEECH ASKING CONGRESS TO

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RECONSIDER THAT SECTION OF THE TRADE REFORM ACT OF 1974

WHICH EXCLUDED ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA FROM THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF TARIFF PREFERENCES. THE EDITORIAL, CAPTIONED "EXPRESSIONS OF GOOD WILL", WAS ESSENTIALLY FAVORABLE AND REFLECTED HOPE FOR A RENEWAL OF GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND "COUNTRIES OF THIS HEMISPHERE... ORIENTED TOWARD COLLABORATION, AS A UNITED BLOC OF COUNTRIES WITH COMMON INTERESTS, BUT UPON THE BASIS OF RESPECT AND RECIPROCAL EQUALITY".

3. THERE HAS BEEN NO RECENT NOTABLE COMMENTARY ON EVENTS IN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM. THE NEWS FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA HAS BEEN FULLY AND FAIRLY COVERED IN THE LOCAL PRESS, WITHOUT INNUENDO, AND MOSTLY BASED ON US SOURCES (AP, UPI, ETC). THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY SIGNIFICANT EDITORIAL COMMENT, ALTHOUGH WE SUSPECT THAT THE OFFICIAL ECUADOREAN REACTION, WERE ANY TO BE EXPRESSED, WOULD BE SYMPATHY FOR THE POSITION THE US FINDS ITSELF IN. EVENTS IN INDOCHINA WILL, OF COURSE, BE SOMETHING OF A MINOR SHOT-IN-THE-ARM TO THE LEFT WING, AND THE STUDENT FEDERATIONS AND MARXIST-LENINIST RADICAL GROUPS HAVE BEEN AT THE WALLS WITH THEIR PAINT BUCKETS (SAMPLE: "SOCK IT TO THE YANKEES IN VIETNAM"). WE BELIEVE THIS REFLECTS OPPORTUNISM, IN THE ABSENCE OF OTHER BURNING ISSUES, RATHER THAN ANYTHING LIKELY TO DIRECTLY AFFECT OUR INTERESTS HERE.

4. AS FOR DIRECT EFFECT ON GOE POLICIES, THE GOVERNMENT WILL, OF COURSE, HAVE TO RE-EVALUATE ITS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIPS (WHICH IT HAS WITH BOTH THE GRK AND THE GVN, ALTHOUGH NEITHER HAVE RESIDENT MISSIONS IN QUITO). THEY HAVE NOTHING DIRECTLY AT STAKE, BUT THE GOE HAS USUALLY BEEN RECEPTIVE TO OUR REQUESTS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE GRK AND GVN IN INTERNATIONAL FORA. THE COLLAPSE OF THE GRK IS, IN A MINOR WAY, THE ELIMINATION OF ONE AREA WHERE THE ECUADOREANS COULD CO-OPERATE WITH US, AMELIORATING FRICTION IN OTHER FIELDS. BOTH THE GOE AND OTHER ECUADOREAN INTERESTS WILL, OF COURSE, CLOSELY WATCH THE CONTINUING EVOLUTION OF THE US ROLE IN WORLD AFFAIRS, AND WILL BE RE-APPRAISING THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO US IN THE CONTEXT OF THAT EVOLUTION.

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5. THE ECUADOREAN PRESS HAS LIKEWISE GIVEN FULL AND FAIR COVERAGE TO PLANS FOR THE SECRETARY'S SOUTH AMERICAN TRIP. WHEN HIS VISIT WAS FIRST BROACHED (AND INCLUDED STOPS IN CHILE AND PERU) QUESTIONS WERE ASKED OF VARIOUS EMBASSY OFFICERS ABOUT WHY THE SECRETARY WAS NOT COMING TO ECUADOR, CONSIDERING THE ISSUES OF THE RECENT PAST (TUNA BOAT SEIZURES, TERMINATION OF

GRANT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, CESSATION OF SOFT LOANS,  
FAILURE OF THE QUITO MFM CONSIDERING CUBA SANCTIONS, ETC).  
BUT WE SUSPECT THE ECUADOREANS REALIZED THAT, IN THE  
LATIN AMERICAN CONSTELLATION, THEIR STAR WAS NOT VERY  
BRIGHT, AND MAY EVEN HAVE SENSED THAT THEY THEMSELVES  
HAD DONE NOTHING RECENTLY THAT WOULD ENDEAR THEM TO US.

6. IN ANY EVENT, REMOVAL OF THE OTHER TWO WEST COAST  
COUNTRIES WILL LIKELY DIMINISH WHATEVER HURT FEELINGS  
MAY HAVE EXISTED, AND THE GOE MAY HOPE THAT A SECOND  
SECRETARIAL VISIT TO SOUTH AMERICA, AIMED TOWARD THE  
WEST COAST, WILL MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE SECRETARY TO  
CONSIDER AT LEAST A BRIEF STOP-OVER IN QUITO. HEMENWAY

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